



DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU

Rehearsing for the day when their plays will be so successful that they can pick and choose their clients, are Tom Quaggin (l) and Jim Weyant, young playwrights who won the Rosemary De Camp awards in the recent Torrance high school One-Act Play Festival. Press Photo.

Weyggin Productions Will Accept Early Reservations For New York Opening

By NORALE E BENEDICT

Today Broadway theatre knows Kaufmann and Hart and Hecht and MacArthur, and if two promising young Torrance playwrights make their plans a reality, the Broadway theatre of tomorrow will know Quaggin and Weyant.

Jim Weyant, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Weyant, and Tom Quaggin, the son of Mrs. Emma Roberts, won the Rosemary De Camp annual playwright's awards for their shows in the recent Torrance high school One-Act Play Festival.

As a result, the young men have decided to combine their talents and work as a team in the future. They have christened their partnership "Weyggin Productions."

Their first duo-production was given last week at the Tartar Lady Aud Call assembly. It was a satirical skit titled "Slenderella."

At present, they are engaged in writing a show which they intend to offer as a possible choice for next year's Senior Play. If it is accepted, it will be the first time that an original three-act play has ever been presented as the Torrance high school production.

The only information which they would divulge at this time, is that their show will have a large cast, is easy to stage, and will be a comedy of foreign intrigue.

The talents that they have displayed in their separate efforts for the One-Act Festival so impressed Judge John Shideler, that he has encouraged the boys to enter a show for consideration by the Bar Association.

The association is seeking one-act plays of professional caliber. If the boys should submit a play which is chosen, they will receive their first check for their talents.

School Award
Approximately 15 students entered plays this year in the annual competition set up originally by John K. Steinbaugh, former principal of Torrance high school, to encourage dramatic arts.

"Charge of Heart," by Weyant, and "The Clock" and "150 Years to Learn," by Quaggin, were chosen for production by Rosemary De Camp and Von Hershey, head of the Torrance high drama department. The shows are chosen on the basis of the imagination and quality of the writing.

"Charge of Heart," Weyant's show, was simple in plot, the

story of a young girl who wanted to go to a high school dance, but was thwarted until the last moment by her stepmother.

The realism and unusual depth of understanding for both the girl's longing and the stepmother's motive won Jim high praise.

Jim, who is a sophomore, is in his first year at Torrance high school. He has been writing since he was nine years old and has done numerous short plays and skits for school and for outside groups.

His father, Lieutenant Commander Ralph Weyant, Harbor District of the Los Angeles Detectives, has served as a great aid to the boys in their plans for future plays.

The Commander talks each week with writers of "Dragnet" who come to check with him on accuracy and source material for the television and radio show. He passes on hints on professional procedure and copies of the original "Dragnet" scripts to the boys. The boys are setting up a file of scripts for study and reference.

"The Clock," by Quaggin, was a deftly handled trilogy based on the theme, "Time Is Of The Essence."

"The idea came to me when my father was very ill not long ago," Tom said. "We used to drive each night to the hospital and each time we'd pass a big clock on the way. I was impressed then by the importance of a single minute in a person's life. I wrote 'The Clock' showing three situations in which people found their entire world changed by something that happened in only a few short minutes."

"150 Years to Learn," Quaggin's other play, was a rollicking comedy concerning the ghost of Napoleon who finally learned that a wife is a man's best friend. The vehicle provided Tom with an opportunity to use his flair for witty and polished dialogue.

Until that time, he had planned to follow a career as a lawyer. "Of course," he said, "I have written a few short stor-

ies for my own amusement, but usually, I would just sit, throw a few plots together, and file them away. The thought of writing seriously never occurred to me until last year's play."

"The only reason that I had even dabbled with writing," he said, "is because I live in a house where things are always happening. With my family providing the material, it's difficult not to write."

Tom's mother, Emma Roberts, is well known in Torrance when it comes to theatrical ventures. Residents are fond of recalling the act which she and Sam Levy did for the Torrance Variety Show, and the role she played in "The Patsy," with Judge John Shideler, some years ago.

When asked what they considered the most important qualities necessary to a playwright, Jim said, "I think a creative imagination is the most vital thing. Plots are no problem, you see them everyday, but developing those plots into something worth seeing is the important thing."

Tom said, "I think that a good playwright should be able to take the smallest incident, and make it look important. A playwright must be able to look at things, not as a mere observer, but with the same feeling as the person to whom it happened. Then he must make that incident come alive for the audience, so that they feel the same sense of importance."

In view of the rare understanding of human nature, wit, imagination, and high purpose which these two young men display, Torrance residents might do well to avoid the long wait for seats and reserve two on the aisle for opening night in New York for the Weyggin Production, circa 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson, of 4623 W. 184th st., announce the birth of a daughter, Debra Clare, weighing 6 pounds and 10 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Farris, of 3223 W. 184th st., announce the birth of a daughter, Deborah Jean, weighing 6 pounds and 15 ounces.

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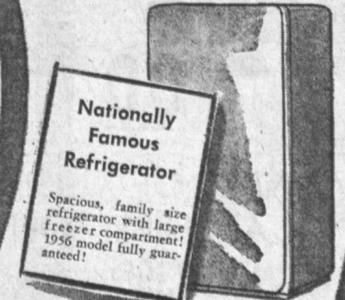
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Spirit of Cooperation

Participating in the meeting of southern schools of the Los Angeles Council of Co-operative Nursery schools held recently at the Torrance Co-operative Nursery school are: (l-r) Mrs. Milton Barter, local director; Mrs. Howard Engel, incoming area coordinator; Mrs. Penny Kanner, UCLA conference chairman; Mrs. Edward Bigelow, outgoing area coordinator; and Mrs. Harold Gruen, local president. Mrs. Engel is from the Gardena Co-operative Nursery school.